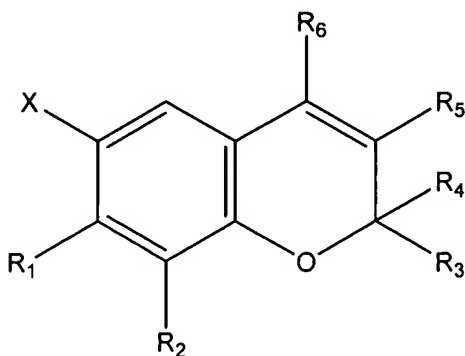


CLAIMS:

1. (Original) A hair growth stimulant comprising at least one chromene compound represented by Structural Formula (1) as an active ingredient:



wherein R₁ and R₂ are each independently -H, -OH, or -OR wherein R is a C₁₋₄ alkyl group; R₃ and R₄ are each independently -H, or a C₁₋₄ alkyl group; R₅ and R₆ are each independently -H, a C₁₋₄ alkyl group, or an optionally substituted phenyl group; and X is -CH(OH)R₇, or -C(=O)R₇ wherein R₇ is a C₁₋₄ alkyl group or an optionally substituted phenyl group.

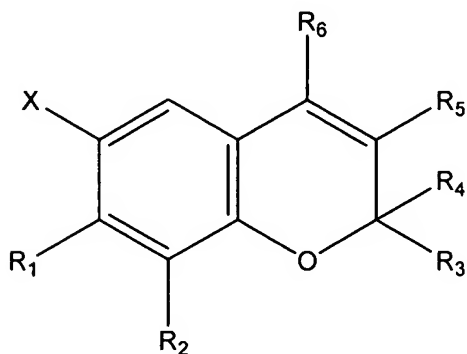
2. (Original) The hair growth stimulant according to Claim 1, wherein the chromene compound represented by Structural Formula (1) is at least one member selected from the group consisting of methylripariochromene A (6-acetyl-7,8-dimethoxy-2,2-dimethylchromene), acetovanillochromene (6-acetyl-8-methoxy-2,2-dimethylchromene), and orthochromene A (6-(1-hydroxyethyl)-7,8-dimethoxy-2,2-dimethylchromene).

3. (Currently amended) ~~The~~ A hair-restoring preparation for external use comprising the hair growth stimulant of Claim 1 or 2.

4. (Currently amended) ~~The~~ A hair-restoring preparation for oral use comprising the hair growth stimulant of Claim 1 or 2.

5. (Currently amended) ~~The~~ A hair-restoring food comprising the hair growth stimulant of Claim 1 or 2.

6. (Currently amended) A method for preparing a hair growth stimulant containing at least one chromene compound represented by Structural Formula (1) as an active ingredient,



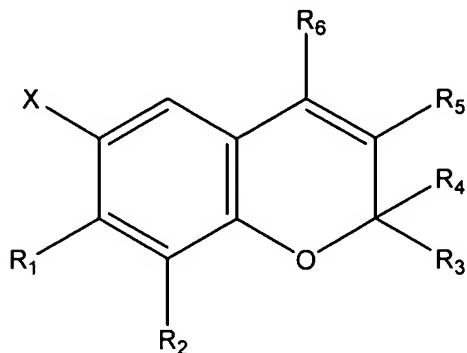
wherein R₁ and R₂ are each independently -H, -OH, or -OR wherein R is a C₁₋₄ alkyl group; R₃ and R₄ are each independently -H, or a C₁₋₄ alkyl group; R₅ and R₆ are each independently -H, a C₁₋₄ alkyl group, or an optionally substituted phenyl group; and X is -CH(OH)R₇, or -C(=O)R₇ wherein R₇ is a C₁₋₄ alkyl group or an optionally substituted phenyl group; the method comprising steps (i) and (ii):

(i) obtaining a chromene compound-containing extract by contacting a solvent with at least one plant selected from the group consisting of plants of the genus *Orthosiphon* in the family Lamiaceae, plants of the genus *Eupatorium* in the family Asteraceae, and plants of the genus *Stevia* in the family Asteraceae; and

(ii) isolating a chromene compound represented by Structural Formula (1) from the extract obtained in (i).

7. (Original) The method for preparing a hair growth stimulant according to Claim 6, wherein the chromene compound represented by Structural Formula (1) is at least one member selected from the group consisting of methylripariochromene A (6-acetyl-7,8-dimethoxy-2,2-dimethylchromene), acetovanillochromene (6-acetyl-8-methoxy-2,2-dimethylchromene), and orthochromene A (6-(1-hydroxyethyl)-7,8-dimethoxy-2,2-dimethylchromene).

8. (Original) A hair-restoring method comprising the step of contacting an effective amount of a hair growth stimulant containing at least one chromene compound represented by Structural Formula (1) as an active ingredient with hair tissue:



wherein R₁ and R₂ are each independently -H, -OH, or -OR wherein R is a C₁₋₄ alkyl group; R₃ and R₄ are each independently -H, or a C₁₋₄ alkyl group; R₅ and R₆ are each independently -H, a C₁₋₄ alkyl group, or an optionally substituted phenyl group; and X is -CH(OH)R₇, or -C(=O)R₇ wherein R₇ is a C₁₋₄ alkyl group or an optionally substituted phenyl group.